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BULLETIN

OF THE

American Iris Society

October, 1929

Exhibitions And—

No. 33

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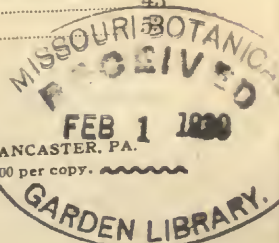
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Published Quarterly by

SCIENCE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY, LIME & GREEN STS., LANCASTER, PA.

Subscription price to members \$3.00 per year, non-members \$1.00 per copy.



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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

SCIENCE SERIES NO. 5 THE IRIS SCHOLARSHIP FOR 1929

DOLORES J. FAY, CLYDE CHANDLER, AND A. B. STOUT

FOREWORD

Each successive year of the hybridization work with irises under the scholarship grants of The American Iris Society finds that the combinations of crosses which remain to be attempted are more restricted to wide crosses that give little promise of success or are confined to the use of new irises that have become available for the first time. And so the detailed report of the work done in 1929 contains a record of many cross-pollinations that gave no seed. But various pollinations gave seeds which have been planted, and as soon as the seedlings bloom a report can be made regarding their character, especially if any of them prove of interest. It seems advisable to summarize for immediate publication the work of the year in pollination, and to place the emphasis on the results of the studies made on the viability of the pollen. The following summary is based on a careful survey of the records of the work.

THE WORK IN BREEDING

The plans made for further work in the breeding of irises during 1929 involved: (1) the hybridization of the southern species especially with forms hardy in the northern states, and (2) efforts to obtain seedlings from cross-pollination between Japanese Irises and other types.

Many cross-pollinations were made involving southern species, such as *Iris fulva* and *Iris vinicolor*, and the northern species, *Iris versicolor*. In a few cases, as in previous years, some seeds have been obtained, but until these seedlings bloom it cannot be stated with certainty that hybrids have been obtained. Enough seeds have now been obtained to determine whether real hybrids have been secured between these species. The many failures obtained in this work seem to indicate that *I. fulva* and *I. vinicolor* do not cross readily with *I. versicolor*. Possibly by making a large number of pollina-

tions under fully controlled conditions involving many different individuals, hybrids may in time be obtained.

For several years a clump of plants growing at The New York Botanical Garden has been labelled as *Iris chrysographes*. But now after critical scrutiny by Mrs. James J. Montague, Mr. Franklin B. Mead and Mrs. Ethel Anson S. Peckham it has been decided that

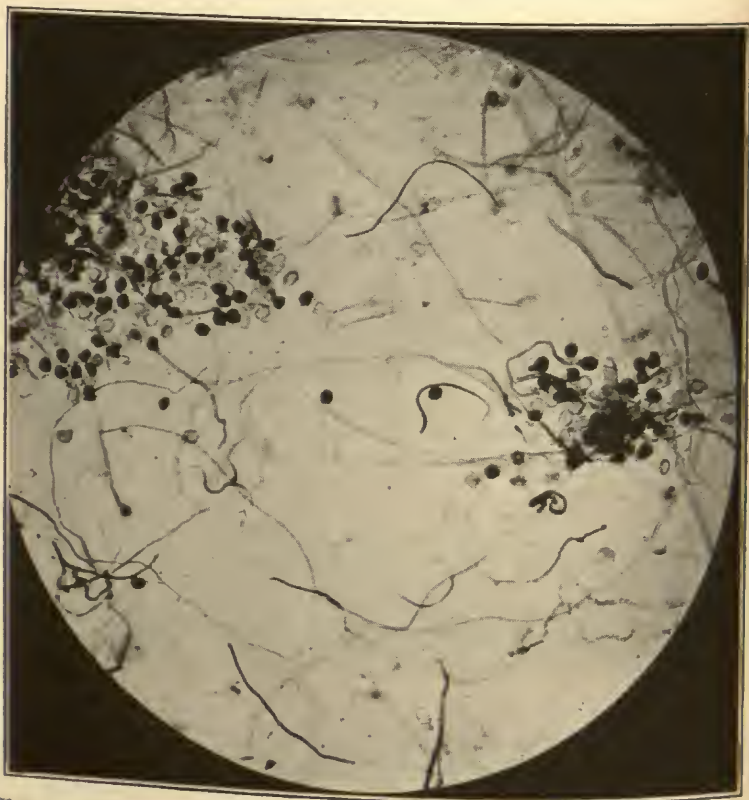


FIG. 1. Pollen of *Iris Crane's Feather* germinating after it had been stored for 40 days in capsules in a desiccator kept in a refrigerator at 35-40° F. The magnification is 27 times.

this plant is not a true *I. chrysographes*, but is a type of Japanese Iris. This iris was used in various cross-pollinations with other Japanese Irises and considerable seeds were obtained. Also crosses between various other Japanese Irises gave considerable seed.

In grand summary, 70 different lots of seed were obtained and planted. All of the seedlings will be grown until they bloom, when they will be studied with respect to the parentage recorded, especially when wide crosses are involved.

THE STUDIES OF POLLEN LONGEVITY

By request of the officers of The American Iris Society a special study was made in 1929 of the conditions by which pollen of irises may be kept viable for use in breeding. If pollen will remain in a viable condition for several weeks and can be shipped to a distance for use elsewhere, the possibilities for cross-pollination and hybridization are greatly extended. A rather extensive study was made, and this was continued by Miss Chandler when the period of work by Miss Fay was at an end. In these tests pollen of certain irises was kept in a viable condition for a period of 88 days.

Methods of testing pollen. The germination of "good" pollen of irises is readily obtained by artificial means. Repeated tests have shown that reliable results may be had with the use of a medium of sugar, water, and agar, with the amount of sugar either 5, 10, or 15 grams to 100 c.c. of water and 1 gram of agar. In making the tests all these strengths of sugar were used. The prepared media are heated until liquid, then a drop of each strength is placed on a glass slide. When the drops are fully cool, pollen is sprinkled over the surface and then the culture is placed in a moist chamber for from 18 to 24 hours. Examination under a microscope readily reveals whether there is germination.

Many irises have very poor pollen. The pollen of many irises is scarcely or not at all viable at any time, even when the anthers are freshly dehiscing. Such pollen is worthless or of little value for use in any pollinations. This matter of pollen sterility was especially studied and reported on in several earlier reports.*

The tests for longevity. These tests were, of course, made for irises whose pollen is highly potent at the time it is shed from anthers. Pollen of plants of the species *Iris fulva* and *Iris versicolor* and of certain clons of Japanese Irises was utilized, first because it is naturally highly potent and, second, because it could be had in sufficient quantity for the tests. A considerable quantity of pollen of each kind was collected from freshly dehiscing anthers, divided into various lots, placed in different containers, and stored under

* Bulletins of AM. IRIS SOC., No. 16, 1925; No. 21, 1926, and No. 27, 1928.

different conditions. Pollen was placed loosely in envelopes, in wide-mouthed vials stoppered loosely with cotton, and in gelatine medicine capsules. A set of the pollen was kept in the open air, and another in a desiccator which maintains a dry-air condition. For testing the effect of temperatures a set was left on tables in the laboratory, another set was kept in an electric refrigerator at a temper-

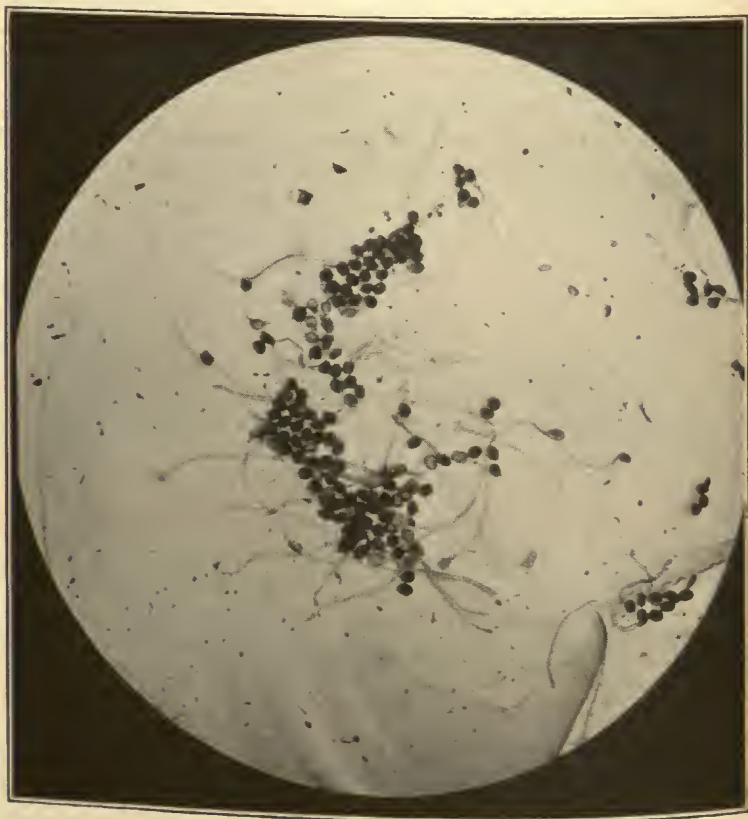


FIG. 2. Pollen of Iris Crane's Feather germinating after it had been stored for 88 days in capsules in a desiccator kept in a refrigerator having a temperature between 35° and 40° F. The magnification is 27 times.

ature of about 35° to 40° F. and another set was kept in an incubating oven at a higher than room temperature.

For the pollen kept in capsules, in vials, or in envelopes in the open air of the laboratory there was no control of temperature or of

moisture. Under these conditions pollen of *Iris fulva* was either dead or only feebly viable on the second day after storage, no pollen of *Iris versicolor* germinated on the fourth day, but pollen of the Japanese irises, Yumo-no-umi, Crane's Feather, and Koki-no-iro, remained alive for a period of seven days, even when stored merely in envelopes.

Some of the pollen stored in vials and in capsules in desiccators and kept in incubating ovens at temperatures from 75° to 85° F. remained viable as long as forty days.

The best results in keeping pollen viable were obtained from storage in an electric refrigerator which maintained a temperature between 35° and 40° F. The air in this particular refrigerator is kept rather dry, but the air in a household refrigerator in which much food is kept is liable to be more moist, and a refrigerator cooled with ice will have moist air and more uneven temperatures. Pollen merely stored in vials loosely stoppered with cotton remained viable for 88 days after its collection. Pollen of *Iris* Crane's Feather, a Japanese iris, stored in capsules and kept in a desiccator, gave a germination of almost 100 per cent. on the 40th day (Figure 1), and there was still good germination on the 88th day (Figure 2), when the supply of pollen was used up in the tests for germination.

Directions for handling pollen. In breeding irises the simplest method is to use pollen directly from dehiscent anthers, but this limits the cross-pollinations to plants blooming at the same time. The studies of this year indicate that pollen which is viable at the start may be kept viable for later use. The following procedure may be recommended. Pollen from freshly but fully dehiscent anthers should be collected and to prevent contamination with foreign pollen the flowers should be of those previously enclosed in paper bags. Gelatine capsules are excellent for the storage of pollen; they may readily be numbered with ink for identity; they take up little space and hence a number of them may be kept in a single desiccator; but they must be kept dry. Vials with cotton-plug stoppers are also convenient for use. To keep pollen dry in storage and when it is being carried about, desiccators may be employed. These are easily made from wide-mouthed bottles, fruit jars or salad dressing jars. Granulated calcium chloride that has been kept dry in a sealed jar or can is placed in the bottom and over this is placed a layer of paper or cotton, leaving room above for vials or capsules. The desiccator is kept tightly covered. The calcium chloride should

be replaced at frequent intervals, as it becomes useless as a desiccating agent after it has absorbed much moisture. For shipping pollen of irises wide-mouthed bottles may be made into desiccators and the various pollens put into capsules which are placed within.

It is to be noted that the studies here reported were made with pollen that was highly viable at the time it was shed from anthers. For many of the cultivated clons only a small proportion of the pollen is viable, and such pollen may not retain its viability in storage.

Further studies of pollen viability. Tests for viability will be made of any sample of pollen that is sent to The New York Botanical Garden, and also germination tests will be made of the fresh pollen of any clonal variety for which a request is made, provided plants of the particular clon are growing and blooming in the collections at The New York Botanical Garden.



Dr. J. R. McLeland, a breeder of Beardless Irises. —Photo by E. Anderson

A FURTHER REPORT ON THE IRIS SEEDLINGS OF THE 1927 BREEDING AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

CLYDE CHANDLER

Approximately 1,700 iris seedlings obtained from the breeding work of 1927 bloomed at The New York Botanical Garden during June and July, 1929. Seven hundred of these are being kept for detailed study in 1930. One hundred and twelve of the seedlings, most of which are the result of crosses between southern forms of irises not hardy in this section of the country, are being kept in cold frames. Many of these have not yet bloomed. One thousand have been planted on the estate of Mr. Clarence Lewis, where they may be observed further.

1. PLANTS SENT TO THE ESTATE OF MR. CLARENCE LEWIS

Mr. Clarence Lewis very kindly consented to provide ample space on his estate in New Jersey for 1,000 of the seedlings which bloomed this year. With the cooperation and capable judgment of Mrs. E. A. S. Peckham all the lots of the 1927 seedlings were carefully studied. Many of these seedlings are good but are not outstanding enough for use in further breeding or for immediate propagation as named horticultural clons.

Various cross-pollinations involving plants labeled *I. versicolor*, *I. virginica*, and *I. virginica purpurescens* received by The New York Botanical Garden from different localities yielded 377 seedlings, all of which have been sent to Mr. Lewis. A positive statement in regard to the distinctness of species of either *I. versicolor* or *I. virginica* cannot be made at the present time on the basis of the characteristics exhibited by these seedlings.

The entire lot of seedlings from the combinations, Mme. Butterfly $\times$ Emperor and True Blue $\times$ *orientalis*, have also been sent to Mr. Lewis. The cross Mme. Butterfly $\times$ Emperor gives plants strongly resembling Emperor. Small *orientalis* plants are the result of the cross True Blue $\times$ *orientalis*.

The following lots of seedlings have been divided. Some of the striking seedlings are being kept at The N. Y. Botanical Garden

while the majority have been sent to Mr. Lewis. *I. spuria* $\times$ *I. orientalis* produced seedlings which strongly resemble both parents. Some of the flowers are rich violet blue with peculiar markings of brown and red at the base of the falls. It is interesting to note that True Blue $\times$ Emperor gives a mixed lot of seedlings. Most of them



FIG. 1. Flower of a seedling from the cross *I. versicolor* $\times$ *I. laevigata*. Height 18 inches. Erect. Stiff. Falls purplish blue. Bright yellow zone surrounded by dark purple on the falls. Veins darker on falls. Standards slightly lighter than falls. $\times \frac{3}{8}$

are low in habit of growth like True Blue; five have flowers that are entirely white; some are like Emperor in their flowers; and several have flowers that are light blue with white markings. Large white

flowers and distinct blues with blue style-branches are the result of the cross Emperor $\times$ Snow Queen. All flowers of *I. Baxteri* $\times$ Emperor are like Emperor with slight variation in the shade of color.



FIG. 2. Flower of a seedling from the cross Dorothea K. Williamson $\times$ *I. foliosa*. Bluish purple. Darker violet near center of falls. Large yellow area on falls. Habit intermediate between the two parents. $\times 3$.

2. SEEDLINGS KEPT FOR FURTHER STUDY

The seedlings of the following crosses are being kept for further study. Some of these which possess unusual characteristics will probably be used in further breeding. *Iris Baxteri* × *I. laevigata*



FIG. 3. Hodai × *I. Kaempferi*. Dark, rich, purple velvet falls. Standards and style arms also dark purple. Yellow streak on falls covered by style branch. Fall $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long including claw. Standards erect $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. × $\frac{1}{3}$.

seedlings are much like *I. laevigata* except that their flowers have smaller falls with yellow instead of white on the base. Plants re-

sulting from the cross *I. carolina* $\times$ *I. laevigata* have the *I. carolina* type of foliage with dark purple at bases of the leaves and stems and the flowers are intermediate. The falls spread but do not recurve as in *I. laevigata*. One plant has yellow at the base of the falls where the flowers of *I. laevigata* are white.

A very interesting plant resulated from the cross Hodai $\times$ *I. Kaempferi*. Its flowers are a rich purple with a velvet texture. The falls measure $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches across and $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, including the claw. A deep yellow streak which is entirely covered by the dark blackish purple style-branches is found at the base of each fall. The standards measure $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches and stand erect (Figure 3).

All the seedlings from the cross *I. sibirica* $\times$ Snow Queen are being kept. Many shades of blue, both light and dark, are the result of Snow Queen influence. The best clear blue flowers as well as some almost pink (pale orchid) flowers with peculiar markings of brown on the falls have *I. spuria* $\times$ *I. Brachycarpa* as their parents. Sunny Brook $\times$ Snow Queen also gives many pale blue flowers. Some of these seedlings have typical Sunny Brook flowers.

I. versicolor $\times$ *I. laevigata* has given one of the most promising hybrids of the season. Only one plant from a lot of twelve has bloomed. This plant is about 18 inches tall. The flowers are bluish purple with a bright yellow ridge edged with dark purple on the falls (Figure 1).

Seedlings from *I. versicolor* $\times$ Snow Queen have foliage like Snow Queen but branching flower stems like *versicolor* which sends out a lateral branch near the center or below the center of the flowering stem. The *sibirica* group has flower stems which branch nearer the apex. While no pure white flowers have appeared there are many very pale versicolors.

The above is only a preliminary study of the seedlings from the 1927 breeding. Seedlings of thirty lots from various combinations are still to be studied individually.

3. HYBRIDS WITH SOUTHERN IRISES IN THE PARENTAGE KEPT FOR FURTHER STUDY

The main object of the 1927 breeding was to use *Iris fulva* with its copper-red color both as a pollen and as a seed parent in as many combinations with hardy irises as were possible. Crosses were also made with a number of other southern forms.



FIG. 4. *I. vinicolor* $\times$ *I. fulva*. Falls blackish red to purple. Standards slightly lighter. Tendency toward yellow streak on the falls. $\times \frac{2}{3}$.



FIG. 5. *I. fulva* x Dorothea K. Williamson. Erect habit of *fulva*. Color darker red than *fulva*. Definite yellow streak on the falls. Anthers shorter than style-branches.

Various hybrid seedlings having *I. fulva* as a parent bloomed during the year and a report may be made of their character. Of the seedlings of the cross *I. vinicolor* $\times$ *I. fulva* the majority resemble *I. fulva* in the general appearance of the flowers but some show resemblance to *I. vinicolor* (Figure 4).

Seven plants from the cross *I. fulva* $\times$ Dorothea K. Williamson bloomed. No two of these are alike. Their flowers vary in color from dark anthracene violet to copper-red and pale maroon. The length of the anthers and the yellow ridge on the falls vary with each individual plant. One closely resembles *I. fulva* but is darker red and has a decided yellow streak on the falls (Figure 5).

As a pollen parent *I. fulva* was successful in four combinations and two of the best hybrids were among the seedlings thus obtained. Dorothea K. Williamson $\times$ *I. fulva* gave one plant with dark red (bordeaux) flowers with a very slight variation in the shade. This is, apparently, the first true hybrid with red flowers reported among the beardless group.

I. versicolor $\times$ *I. mirabilis* gave seedlings which resemble the seed parent except that many are very light colored. In the color of the flowers the influence of the white flowered *I. mirabilis* is seen.

Another interesting hybrid is from Dorothea K. Williamson (*fulva* $\times$ *foliosa*) $\times$ *I. foliosa* (Figure 2). The habit of growth of this plant is intermediate between that of the parents. The flower is most striking in that it is more bluish purple in color than Dorothea K. Williamson and there is a brilliant orange yellow ridge on a white background at the base of the falls. This gives the effect of an "eye zone." Many of these seedlings have been selfed for the second generation.

* * * * *

Members interested in scientific hybridization will find a series of articles in the Journal de la Societe Nationale d'Horticulture de France (Feb. 1929, Aug. 1929), and in the Comptes Rendue des seances de la Societe de biologie (Dec. 28, Oct. 27, 1928) on Iris Chromosomes by Marc Simonet. Among the beardless irises the number varies from 14 in *I. sibirica* and *orientalis*, or 12 in *I. kaempferi*, to 36 in *I. versicolor*. In the Pogoniris group the number rarely exceeds 12 in the older varieties but in the newer seedlings such as Lent A. Williamson or Magnifica it may reach 50 or 60. To even the untrained observer it is clear that number of chromosomes has no effect upon the possibility of successful crossings. Ed.

HIGH SPOTS OF AN EASTERN TRIP

BY HOWARD WEED

For several years I have wanted to make an eastern trip during the iris blooming season. Inasmuch as this season is the very time I am most needed at home, I was unable to travel until this year, when my wife and son insisted I make the trip. I started late in the season on June 8 and returned July 30. Going to Boston via Washington, I returned over the Canadian Pacific. I had a most delightful trip and was cordially received by many of the iris growers. I found them to be enthusiastic regarding their specialty flower and was somewhat surprised to learn that the majority of the growers have other methods of making a livelihood aside from the growing of irises. Many growers sell their surplus in order to obtain money to purchase new varieties. But few of the growers are making great fortunes from the game, in fact, a great number are not even making expenses at the present time.

So many persons have asked me about other growers that I feel I must tell the truth concerning my visits to various gardens. Arriving in the east too late for the best blooms, I saw the finest specimens in Ithaca and Baldwinsville, New York. Although I was in plenty of time for the blooming of the Japanese iris, my impressions of them will be left for another article.

My first stop was Freeport, where I was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Pattison. My greatest surprise was due to the fact that Mrs. Pattison orders a dozen or more of a kind of the expensive foreign iris. I am sure that most of us are content to order but one or two at a time, being satisfied to wait for them to increase. Mrs. Pattison is a true gardener and Mr. Pattison is in full sympathy with her work. The garden is all hand worked and rather extensive in area.

My next visit was to the garden of Franklin B. Mead at Fort Wayne. Unfortunately, Mr. Mead had left for Ithaca that morning, but a neighbor was kind enough to show me through the garden, the sign "closed" on the gate being disregarded. Mr. Mead has recently given all his older varieties to the city parks—a fine example for the rest of us. The Mead garden is an excellent

example of what a garden should be—properly landscaped and containing other plants beside iris.

It took all the next day to get to Ithaca via Harrisburg, but the meeting arrangements were timely. The meeting of the American Iris Society was peculiar to say the least. Belonging to many national societies, I have attended a number of conventions. I found the iris society to be vastly different than any of the others. We were called to order at 9 A. M., heard a few reports from President Wister, listened to some remarks from Mr. Williamson, Mrs. Peckham, and five-minute talk from myself because I had come



—Photo by E. A. S. Peckham

At Mrs. Kellog's in West Hartford, Conn.,

so far, and then we were adjourned. Personally I should have been delighted to have heard others present relate their experience in growing and problems confronted and would have welcomed the opportunity to ask questions. I regard the real object of these meetings, however, to get personally acquainted and this could be accomplished by a few remarks from each person attending.

After adjournment we visited the test gardens and the fine garden of Colonel Nichols. Mr. Pridham was active showing us his work and was a busy individual throughout the entire meeting. The next day we were taken in autos to Baldwinsville, New York, to visit the Indian Spring Farms, one of the largest horticultural establishments of the country. Here both iris and peonies were at their best, being grown on an extensive scale. The many

visitors gave an inkling to the thousands that must visit the grounds on Sundays.

I next went to Washington, where I saw more injurious insects playing havoc with iris than I ever wish to see again. It is a fortunate thing that a large number of inspectors are employed by the government to combat the Japanese Beetle, the Iris Borer, and other species of injurious insects which seem to infest all plants in that region. I found that most of the iris fans of Washington are government employes. The two that particularly impressed me were Mr. Shull and Mr. Morrison.

Continuing east my next stop was Eatontown, New Jersey, where I visited Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland, the latter being kind enough to take me to Little Silver and other places of interest nearby.



—Photo by E. A. S. Peckham

The Annual Meeting, Ithaca, 1929—Center, Col. Nichols pointing out his good Irises to members of the A. I. S.

My visit to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and the Child's nursery on Long Island was an interesting one.

I spent a delightful visit with the Misses Ives at Meriden, Connecticut. Here are two real dirt gardeners who get much enjoyment from their work and seem to be well posted as to varieties.

On a Sunday morning I dropped "over the garden wall" on Mrs. Kellogg at West Hartford where I found an enthusiastic grower of American varieties. She has a large and nicely cared

for garden. Mrs. Kellogg is anxious to add every American variety of note to her splendid collection. She knows how to entertain a stranger—if an iris lover can be spoken of as such—for after dinner she took me to the summer cottage of Mr. Wallace, our secretary, whom I had missed at Ithaca due to his attendance at a college class meeting on the same day.

But it was around Boston that I found the most iris growers per mile. Money appears to be more plentiful in this section than in others, or at least they are spending more on new plants. I am sorry I cannot mention every one visited, but I fear my article is already getting too long for publication. Miss Sturtevant has a fine place which is well cared for and was busy filling orders when I called. T. J. Donahue is nearby and has recently purchased additional land to enlarge his iris planting. He has a fine setting on the Charles river. I was surprised to learn of the several hundred Swazi and Mrs. Valerie West which he has growing—probably more than any grower. Mr. Donahue believes in using an abundance of manure. Personally I would fear rot by using such an amount, but he has proved that they will stand it for he grows rhizomes as large as any producer in Oregon—something I never expected to admit.

The Ohio growers all seem to be around Cincinnati and Van Wert. I failed to see the former, but spent a day with Judge Snook and Dr. Neeley at Paulding. Neeley was engaged in his profession of dentistry when I arrived but cancelled all engagements for the next day in order to be with me. Judge Snook drove me to Van Wert where I spent some time with Mr. Wassenberg and visited the former gardens of Mr. Bonnewitz. I found the latter had sold his entire stock to Kunderd, who had both men and women employed at work shipping iris at twenty for two dollars. In my estimation this was all they were worth, for I should hate to have it said that such plants came from my gardens. Surely one who purchases such rhizomes will be so discouraged that he will never buy again. But there are two sides to this question as Mr. Kunderd looks on his sales as an introduction to teach what iris are like for these plants go to people who know nothing about the beauty of iris.

I found Mr. Wassenberg had started a new planting, mostly of peonies but am sure he will be much in the limelight as an iris dealer.

The last garden visited was that of F. X. Schreiner at St. Paul. He is 54 years of age, a hard worker possessing rather poor health. He is manager of the carpet department in a large department store and ten years ago purchased his present acreage about a mile from town to start in the chicken business. As this venture was unsatisfactory, he changed to the raising of iris and has bought about every known variety. These are raised under a climatic condition which would discourage most of us. He covers his plants with straw and tarred paper to keep them from freezing during the winter. I found Mr. Schreiner to be a student of the new varieties and one who gives freely of his experiences.

Upon the whole I had a most delightful trip and became personally acquainted with many growers with whom I have corresponded. I would be delighted to make the trip again, but would prefer to have the other growers visit me in Oregon.

"ACROSS SAD ACHERON"—AN ASININITY

Across "sad *Acheron* of sorrow, black and deep" jealousy watched by one hundred-eyed *Argus*, the *Argosy* drifted in the dim *Afterglow* to the Moorish palace of the *Alcazar* (now a Parisian theatre), to the meeting of the Association of *Ardent(a)* As, the phantom members bound by but the common use of their names in the iris world.

Atlas holds aloft the throne where *Athene*, slim in her whiteness, rules the throng. Behind *Azrael*, the Angel of Death, awaits, a threat to those who do not heed the wisdom of the Goddess, and despite this threat the members stand apart in uncertain groups.

Apollo, the sun-god stands alone glancing with *Allure* at *Aphrodite* robed in silken pinks and still devoted to the youth *Adonis*. *Ariadne* winds the thread that is to lead *Theseus* safely from the labyrinth of Crete and *Arethusa* the beautiful daughter of Nereus chats with *Astarte*, the goddess of the moon.

Achille, lured from his tent and at peace once more with *Agamemnon*, who broods apart over the passions of his wife *Clytemnestra* finds *Admiration* for his Trojan mistress *Hippodamia*.

Below the salt *Argonaut* and *Armenien*, peasants from *Asia* and *Arcadia*, the "perfidious shores" of *Albion*, *Attica*, *Askabad*, *Amas*, or *Arsace*, refresh themselves with the *Ambrosia* of the gods and the fragrance of aspiring *Asphodels* fills the air. The *Armee d'Orient* is represented by an *Artilleur*. *Assuerez*, the Persian King, the pious *Archeveque*, and many an *Autocrat*, *Aristocrat*, and *Ambassadeur* enjoy the proceedings.

As the *Albatross*, that bird of ill omen flits across the *Azure* of the sky and as *Aurora*, goddess of the *Dawn*, unveils, the meeting closes. *Ariel*, a spirit of the air, flits with the abandon of the dragon-fly *Argynnis* leading the way to the magic island of *Avalon*, where the flowery meads are like a *Milky Way* with flowers of *Mother of Pearl* and *Amethyst* and the *Sweet Lavender* is a *True Delight*.

NOTE ON THE SYMPOSIUM

The primary purpose of this note is a protest against some of the unfavorable criticisms of the recent symposium which I have either seen in print or have heard.

Lack of knowledge is apt to lead to error. Because a certain iris is particularly fine in one garden, it does not follow that it is equally fine in another garden a thousand miles away.

Climate, soil and cultural methods influence the character of the blooms and hence the ratings. There are few irises which are universally excellent.

Cultivated tastes differ in respect to color, form and other characteristics of growth; hence a difference of opinion and rating.

A few more platitudes might be offered but enough is sufficient. The point is that iris experts living far apart may, and do, differ in their appraisals of many varieties. Even neighbors have been known to differ, sometimes with sanguinary results.

The average ratings for the whole country as given in the symposium are valuable as showing the general adaptability and worth of some varieties in a small section of the country. An average value when the extremes are far apart is necessarily unsatisfactory to both extremists. Because the average values are sometimes locally unsatisfactory, a few iris dealers have omitted the ratings from their catalogues. Although I am not entirely in sympathy with this practice, there is good reason for the omission when the business of the dealer is largely local.

Perhaps regional symposia would better serve the purpose of the society; each symposium to cover the area assigned to a regional vice-president. Also a tabulation of the extreme ratings for each variety might be useful. These suggestions are made with the knowledge that the total labor involved in the compilation and the cost of publication would be greatly increased, also that it is difficult to obtain a sufficient number of competent and willing appraisers in any one section. The regional method has been employed to a limited extent by another society and may have value for us, although the cost may be prohibitive.

“DIGBY LEGARD.”

EXHIBITIONS—1929

Des Moines, Iowa, had its first Iris Show in several years, Mrs. DuMont, who was the Show Manager, reporting an attendance of over three thousand though a very rainy day. This shows that the interest in Irises is growing about Des Moines though shows have not been held since 1926. This year's show was staged by The Iowa Peony and Iris Society, in the new building of the Meredith Publishing Co., where 'Better Homes and Gardens' is published. The collections and specimen stalk classes were shown on tables in the tea room while the artistic arrangement classes and bouquets were placed in the offices and hall. At one end of the tea room were five very fine naturalistic gardens featuring Irises. Jacob and Hans Sass exhibited their newest seedlings as well as their named varieties, their exhibit being a center of interest throughout the day. 'Doxa' and 'Nebraska,' two of Hans Sass' recent introductions, were outstanding specimens. Mrs. Henry Frankel helped to arrange the display of the Sass seedlings. Mrs. Holbrook judged the artistic arrangement classes, Messrs. Jacob Sass, DuMont, O'Donnell and Brand judging the other classes. Harry Russell, who scored the most points in the show, received The Floral Arts Society's Bronze Medal of The American Iris Society for the most first prize points. Each exhibitor was given a rhizome of a good iris. This idea, which originated with The Iris Club of Harrisburg, is now being followed by several clubs with great success.

The Duluth Peony Society held its first Iris Show at Duluth, Minn., on June 25th, with over thirty exhibitors. Robert Schreiner, of St. Paul, Minn., and Charles Corcoran, of Superior, Wis., acted as judges. Beside the three iris classes there was a class for early Peonies. The show was staged at The First National Bank where there was very good lighting. Mrs. J. F. Thompson was the winner of the Bronze Medal, scoring the most first prize points in the Iris classes. She also won the Silver Cup offered by The Duluth Herald. To become the permanent property of an exhibitor it must be won three times. The best specimen stalk in the show was a fine 'Prospero' exhibited by Mr. E. T. Kimball. Mrs. C. J. Schlamann staged an exhibit of fifty varieties of Irises not in competition, thus

adding greatly to the beauty of the show. Mrs. Schlamann and her very able assistants deserve much credit for the great success of this show, which is to become a yearly event in Duluth.

Irises were featured at the Flower Show held June 11th, by the Great Barrington Garden Club at Walker Hall, Great Barrington, Mass. Rev. Edward K. Thurlow, Chairman, reports that at a meeting held by the Garden Club last fall it was decided to hold its public flower shows in three year cycles—in Iris season, in Peony season and in Dahlia-Gladiolus season; thus we can look forward to another Iris show in 1932. Beside the twenty-three Iris classes, there were classes for Peonies, Roses, Sweet Peas as well as a general group for other perennials and a special group for school children. There was a great advance in attendance as well as in exhibitors over previous years, with added interest shown. Mr. Wister judged the Iris classes, Miss Dewey receiving the Bronze Medal, winning six first class prizes. Mr. Wister also gave an illustrated lecture on 'European Gardens' which was greatly enjoyed.

A Regional Flower Show was held at the Oakwood Country Club, Lynchburg, Virginia, May 21st, under the auspices of the Garden Clubs of Chatham, Danville, Lynchburg and Martinsville with Bedford, Fort Hill, Little Garden Club, Pulaski, Roanoke Valley and Wytheville as Associated Clubs. Bearded Irises which in a normal season would have been at their best at this time were on the wane owing to the unseasonable heat a few weeks earlier but the Apogons were shown in wonderful condition and great variety. Peonies, Roses and masses of Oriental Poppies were shown in great variety while the artistic arrangements were especially fine, showing that much thought had been given not only to harmony in color and relationship of flowers shown but the relationship of the container to the material, a point so often little considered. Flowering shrubs were shown on the balcony surrounding the main room while flower pictures about the walls and miniature gardens transformed the Club into a bower of beauty. Mr. Thomas S. Kirkpatrick won the Bronze Medal offered by the Society. Mr. Peyton staged many of the newer Peonies which were of great interest. This exhibit was not in competition, Mr. Peyton being one of the judges. Mrs. Jones, of Richmond, judged the Rose classes and Mrs. Hires the Irises.

The Omaha Iris Show, scheduled for May 24-25th, was postponed one week owing to unusual weather conditions. Due to the change in dates it was necessary to make a change in the judges, Messrs. Jacob and H. P. Sass and Howard Judson taking the place of those who could not rearrange their time to the change of dates. Thus they did not make any entries in competition and as they have the finest collections in Omaha there was a lack of the newer varieties, though a wealth of older varieties was shown by other exhibitors. The Sass Brothers showed about two hundred new seedling Irises which was of outstanding interest to all fans. Messrs. Judson and Gowe, of Omaha, and Bratt, of Bennett, also showed attractive seedlings. Mr. McIntosh, President of the Club, says that the present efforts of the Sass Brothers are largely directed to improvement of the Intermediates and the show was of course too late to show these. Along a street front of ninety-five feet was a continuous line of ornamental tall glass jars each containing two dozen stalks of purple or yellow Irises, making a very impressive color display. Shrubs and early perennials lent beauty to the show and the Peony exhibit was the best showing of early varieties ever held by the Club. Mrs. A. J. Covert was the winner of the Bronze Medal with twenty first prize points, Mr. McIntosh and Mr. Gowe, each with fifteen points, being close competitors.

The Iris Exhibition of the Providence Country Garden Club was held at the Providence Art Club, June 12th. Prof. Hill says it was more artistic in setting and effect than the show held last year, due largely to about twenty-five entries in the classes for flower arrangements and the artistic setting arranged by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Brigham. Each arrangement for the Garden Clubs competition was in a box about three feet cube, the front open with a curved top having a concealed electric light. The boxes were painted silvery gray and were very effective. The individual arrangements were on tables covered with black velvet. The Little Compton Garden Club won the first prize in the Garden Clubs competition for arrangements containing Irises, while the Oaklawn Garden Club won the first prize for the arrangement with or without Irises. Miss Amy Parks won the first prize for arrangements containing Irises in the individual competition, while Mrs. Ballou won first prize in the class for individual arrangements with or without Irises. Mr. Ralph W. Kenyon scored the most first prize points in the Iris

classes, thus winning the Bronze Medal, while Miss Francis W. Lawton was a close runner up. Prof. Hill received an H. M. in the Seedling class for a honey colored self, an Argentina cross.

The tenth Annual Iris Show was held at the Merchants' National Bank Bldg., St. Paul, Minn., under the auspices of the Northwestern Peony and Iris Society, Garden Flower Society and Minnesota State Horticultural Society, The American Iris Society cooperating, on June 7th and 8th. Visitors who are familiar with the shows held each year by this group say it was the best exhibit so far held. The award for the best flower in the show was won by Riverview Gardens with a fine 'Dolly Madison.' Riverview Gardens also won the Silver Medal, with most first prize points, Mrs. A. S. Gowen winning the Bronze Medal. Twenty or more seedlings were entered in the seedling class, No. 2 a seedling grown from seed by Mr. Egelberg, of LaCrosse, Wis., creating much favorable comment. This seedling was not shown by Mr. Egelberg and no award was given. Mrs. Pattison and Mr. Jacob Sass were the judges and rated this seedling at 85. As shown there Mrs. Pattison writes it was of about Magnifica form, with a stem branched almost to the ground, one stalk with seven open flowers, showing seven buds and two blooms removed. As it bloomed in my garden this spring it is of Frieda Mohr coloring and of fine substance.

Reports have not been received of the Boston, Redlands, and Washington shows. The Athens, Georgia, show was not held because of illness of members and the Lexington, Ky., show was too late for the Irises.

Respectfully submitted,

THURA TRUAX HIRES.

At Boston although Mrs. Thomas Nesmith was awarded a Gold Medal by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and T. F. Donahue received the A. I. S. award for the greatest number of points the dates June 16 and 17 proved entirely too late for a fine exhibit of irises.—ED.

Interest in irises in Nashville was maintained by two very interesting exhibitions. The first one was private, and held in the garden of Mrs. Katherine P. Wright. Mrs. Wright placed stands and jars throughout her interesting garden, friends brought cut specimen

blossom, which added to her large growing display and created a very lovely outdoor show. When one is lucky enough to propitiate the weather gods, such a show is most satisfactory.

The second show was held as a section of the Spring Flower Show which was sponsored by the Nashville Garden Club and the Junior Garden Club. This section attracted many admirers and some very fine irises were shown. The seedlings of Dr. J. H. Kirkland and those of the writer were much admired and talked of. The outstanding event was the showing of a new yellow seedling by Dr. Kirkland. It is truly the outstanding yellow of my experience—tall, perfectly formed, beautifully poised, strong, heavy texture, altogether a fine iris, regardless of color. In form and quality, it is not unlike a yellow Princess Beatrice. In color it is perhaps a shade lighter than Aurea.

I had the pleasure of attending the Fourth Annual Spring Flower Show in Chattanooga, Tennessee. These shows are sponsored by a Federation of the Garden Clubs and have attained a fine scale of size and quality.

The iris section was interesting and attracted the fullest measure of attention. There were some good standard varieties shown. I think that perhaps the iris is uppermost in the minds of the gardeners of this interesting city, doubtless, made so by the fact that Mr. Wister appeared there during the winter as a lecturer.

The writer has been requested to design a display garden, which will be built and maintained by the Garden Club of Lookout Mountain. Later this garden will be affiliated with the Society.

C. P. CONNELL.



Sophronia, (Morrison, 1926) (Kashmir White x Alcazar) —Photo by V. Edlmann

A FEW LOVELY IRISES

Some fine photographs by Miss Violet Edlmann give me an opportunity of commenting on some particularly lovely varieties, many of them as it happens, originated by B. Y. Morrison whose seedlings created so much favorable comment from our judges in 1928 and whose selections from this commended batch, Erin, Rose Ash, and the gracefully fascinating Elfin Gold and Hoarfrost, Miss Sturtevant is introducing this coming year.

I note with interest that of the five only one is a seedling of varieties introduced less than twenty years ago and yet if you know these varieties I think you will agree both as to their quality and as to their distinction even as compared to others of recent vintage. One wonders whether our breeders have made so great an advance in these two decades. Petruccio is as rich as a Dominion seedling in color, it has form and carriage, size and height and yet its parents are of a lower class in the iris civilization of to-day. The same is as true of Sophronia, a matchless white, and even Caterina is rarely noted while as for Louis Meyer few have ever seen it,—it was reminiscent of Pfauenauge and even more hideous, its one redeeming feature (to B. Y. M. at least) a trace of lovely blue on the fall.

Few breeders or growers of to-day realize that twenty years ago Alcazar, Kashmir White, and Caterina, with perhaps the addition of Trojana, were the only varieties that gave height and size, branching or substance in other than the lavender hues of a pallida. Practically all of our best novelties can boast of these bloods and only among the plicatas and yellow selfs is it rare to find these same lines of development. The plicatas always have a bit of the old pallida and even Karma, though its parents may be of the moderns, traces back through Shekinah to this source. It has the height and branching of the pallida though it enjoys the flushes and frills of Jubilee.

Asphodel and Horizon are surprisingly close in color, their cool delicate blues may be indistinguishable in a garden picture and yet, even in a photograph one may perceive the differences of branching and reticulation.



Petruchio, (Morrison, 1928) (Iris King x Alcazar) —Photo by V. Edlmann



—Photo by V. Edlmann

Asphodel, (Morrison) (Caterina x Louis Meyer)



—Photo by V. Edlmann
Karma, (Sturtevant, 1930) (Shekinah x Jubilee)



—Photo by V. Edlmann
Horizon, (Morrison, 1925) (Caterina x -)

IRISES ABROAD—IN ROME. Countess Senni

As far as I can see, the French novelties leap from their cradles to America, to judge by American catalogues and the *IRIS BULLETIN*. Whereas, we in Europe wait patiently until they descend to the 50-40-30 franc class.

Marquissette is a thing of beauty, a translucent, golden, apricot, shrimp pink, which is perfect among reds.

I moved Floridor over by Allies; the latter has a curious blue tinge to its standards, and Floridor is such a fine slate blue, without a trace of violet.

Nancy Orne was a great success, and with Liberty and M. Arnal is one of those soft tan and old rose things which act so well as "buffers."

Between May 15th and 30th I swung half the garden around, so that a lot of rich things would get more evening sun through them, and incidentally banished the whole tribe which begins with Menetrier and Flammenschwert and Montezuma to outer darkness—down by the stable. Why should one have to go on pretending to like red and yellow bicolors when one hates them? I don't like Magenta much better, but decided to support it a little longer—Germaine Le Clere is the one with most light and glow to it. Leverrier helps out this lot. Magnifica was the disappointment of our lives; as big as a cabbage, but such a color! Vilmorin's Argos is much more striking, a fine color, almost red falls. Lady Foster and Paragon are certainly the best *big* light blue iris here, much better than Caterina (which grows like a weed), but I think I like the blue of Bluet and Corrida even better, and Mlle. Andree Autissier is the best very pale blue I have.

Daniel Leseuer and Cherubim and Rahna and Afterglow and Mme. Chobaut are all useful to give lightness or neutral relief to stronger colors.

Lots of the ones I brought back from America in 1927 haven't yet bloomed, whereas all Cayeux sent me in November bloomed this May. I think his roots (and Millet's) are uncommonly strong or better ripened. I haven't yet seen Susan Bliss, Dream, Reverie, etc., so my best pinks are still Distinction, Our King, J. B. Dumas and Her Majesty! Mme. C. Bouscant is a gorgeous thing, with the

same translucent quality of *Loetitia Michaud*. Do you know 27 April? It is a good dark blue, but sprawls more than *Shelford Chieftain* or *Caterina*.

A man named Schreiner, in St. Paul, has sent me a catalogue like a dictionary, only much more fascinating. How I wish I might see some of those American collections!

IN ENGLAND. Mrs. John T. Love

The show of the Iris Society was held in the new building of the Royal Horticultural Society in London on June 6th and 7th. The large exhibition hall is a wonderful room, lighted by the sun which comes through huge skylights which nearly cover the ceiling. Only Irises were shown on these two days, Irises of many species, but mainly the Tall Bearded sorts. Low tables of two levels in the centre of the room were given over to the professional growers, who staged their exhibits in large bunches in the middle and in low boxes painted green, large enough to hold six containers which were concealed with moss and peat moss around the edges of the tables. Ferns and foliage of Japanese Maples were used as decorations, relieving the exhibitions of heaviness. At the sides of the room on higher tables were the classes for competition and the seedlings making their bow and hoping that the much prized medal would be laid at their feet. On the walls were water colors of hundreds of varieties, painted mostly by Mr. Caparne and Mr. Galsworthy.

There was a table devoted to diseases of the Iris, showing infected specimens. I was much interested in the new plague which has come to torment us, called, for want of a better name, the scorch. Three different fungus growths have been found on the rhizomes of diseased plants and no treatment so far seems to have been very effective.

The containers were hour-glass shape of green pottery in two sizes. They held the stalks well and were very decorative. Varieties were staged without much discrimination. Next to some new large flowered beauty would be placed old sorts which might just as well be scrapped, but the growers were there to sell and I saw them taking orders for many of these.

These varieties I saw only at the show and I liked them very much but my comments must be accepted with reservations as I

know nothing about their growth. Yukon, a large flower of palest blue, Dog Rose, pink, Persia, a lovely shade of bright red purple and Mrs. George Whitelegg, deep yellow flowers with falls heavily striped brown, probably low growing, a new type. These four received a certificate. I was proud with Dr. Ayres in his triumph with Persia. Joyance, creamy white noted for observation next year, it would probably have received the Certificate had more than one bloom been open, the date was a day or so too early for it. Carfax received the Silver Gilt medal for the best seedling, it is red purple and had six expanded flowers and many buds. Among the seedlings of other years I liked Priestess, palest blue; Zaharoon, crinkled light brown flushed pink, similar in color to my Brownie but finer in quality; Olive Murrell, a large Quaker Lady; R. Wallace, Herbert Olivier, Brittoness, Nemoralia, Ophelia, Micheleine Chairraire, an elongated, crinkled white flower with pointed domed shaped standards; Brimstone, dark brown, quite unlike any other I know; Yolande, similar to Mme. Gaudichau, but I hope more robust, and Louis Bel, the darkest and smallest Iris in the show. Mrs. Marion Cran was superb, either we have not the true variety here in America or we do not know how to grow it.

The following I saw in the show and also growing in the field. Sir Michael, a very beautiful flower on the exhibition table but disappointing in the garden. Labor was reversed, I found it very lovely growing. Mrs. Valerie West is undoubtedly the best of the Bliss seedlings—the growers all agreed to that. I like Bruno second and Romola, lagging a little perhaps, for third; Rheintochter, a very large Rhein Nixe; Sikh, dark red purple, and Realm, a medium blue, both seedlings of Mr. Baker's; Grand Vanquer, a larger Ambassadeur; Rose Petal, similar to Aphrodite but a better color; Amber Wave, smoky and queer; Fra Angelica, a better Sunset, and Allure, pink and yellow. This last as I saw it at the Orpington Nurseries, has medium sized flowers on slender stems held well above the foliage. I should think it would be especially desirable for cutting.

Among the older sorts that made a good impression at the show were Germaine Perthuis, L. Michaud, Cecile Bousecant, Caroline Stringer, Mary Gibson and Shekinah. This last seems to do better in England than here. I must not forget W. R. Dykes, a very beautiful yellow of largest size and fine color, but for some reason the falls have become badly covered with dark spots, a trait which has only lately developed and which will ruin it, I am afraid.

In Mr. Baker's garden at Seven Oaks were the best grown Irises it has ever been my good fortune to see. The flowers of most of them were very, very large and seemed to be on a level with my eye. Ambassadeur was so large and fine that I did not recognize it. Of special interest was the growing of the new California varieties under glass for half the year to protect them from the winter damp. The greenhouse consists of a permanent iron frame, the top and side lights or sash are bolted on and easily removed, there is a stretch around the bottom about 18 inches high that is left open for ventilation; this can be closed during very severe weather with boards which are slipped into place. There is no heat, of course. About the middle of September the lights are put on and the house is kept closed until late March. Mr. Baker bought two sets of Irises from Mr. Mitchell; one lot was planted in the garden whence they quickly "went home," the other lot was planted in this house and never have I seen such Irises. They created a sensation at the show and I was speechless with delight when I saw them growing. San Francisco, Los Angeles, William and Frieda Mohr were unbelievably beautiful. Mr. Baker intends to enlarge his house and put into it those varieties from the south of France as well as from our west which are not willing to thrive in the open.

While with the Garden Club of America I visited many gardens and to my surprise saw very few Irises. In many places there were none at all and at others were just a few of the old varieties. Lady Hudson had two wide borders well filled with the new sorts and Sir William Lawrence grew a number, but he has so many irons in the fire that the Irises seemed incidental. Mr. Baker's garden was not on the program, much to my regret. I should have liked the others to have seen it, because it was one of the very best. He is a collector, having brought back all sorts of things from the fields and mountains of Europe. One could not help but enjoy a ramble through his informal paths and have him point out some tiny treasure and hear him say very slowly, "I found that on the top of Mt. Olympus."

AN IRIS DISPLAY GARDEN IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

C. P. CONNELL

My interest in the municipal parks of the City of Birmingham led me to suggest that an Iris Display Garden be planted in one of the parks. Climatic and soil conditions in the Birmingham territory are particularly suitable to iris growing. There is winter cold enough to kill foliage and pests, and the summers are hot and dry enough to mature the rhizomes.

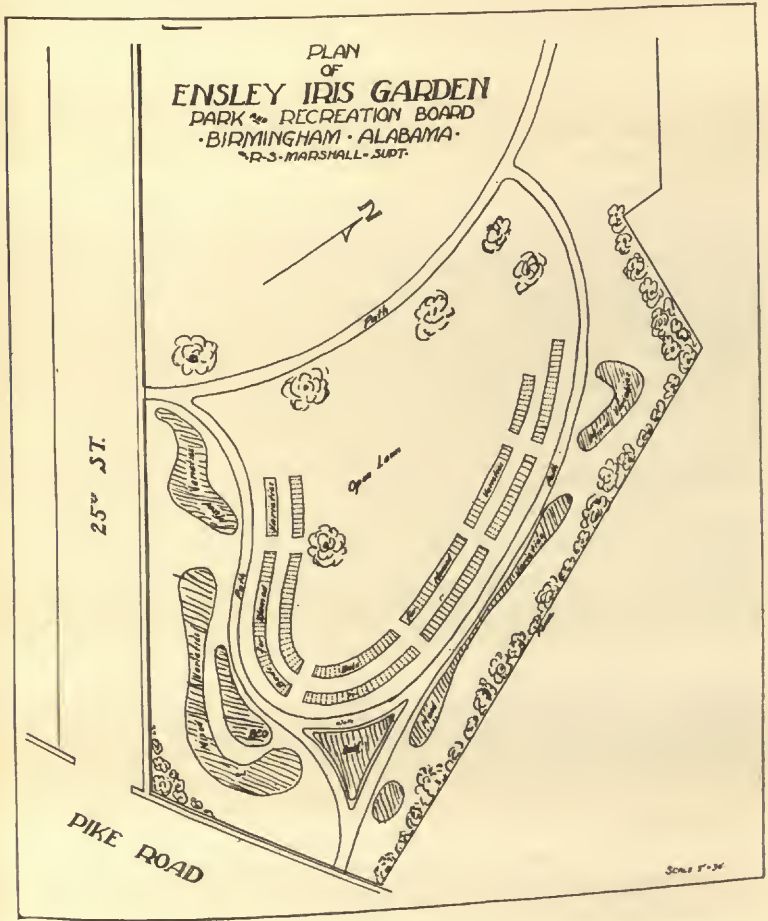
The project was presented to Mrs. Charles J. Sharp, a member of the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board, and received enthusiastic support. Ground space was allotted in Ensley Park and some money appropriated to purchase foundation stock. The design and planting scheme were worked out by the writer.

It was decided to purchase six plants of an approved list of standard named varieties, and to plant them across the beds, in rows three feet apart, each row four feet long and to contain only one variety—each row plainly labelled. These variety beds are arranged in the form of a large horseshoe and have a capacity for approximately five to six hundred varieties. There are at present more than two hundred varieties growing in excellent condition. The irregular beds surrounding the horseshoe form are planted with mixed named iris and mixed seedlings bought by the hundred. The entire area is surrounded by a high shrub screen and an occasional tree is spaced in the background. The planting lies in a shallow bowl-shaped depression, open at one end, with the roads higher than the bowl. The effect is striking as one passes along and looks down into the riot and profusion of bloom and color. The planting attracts hundreds of people daily. They come with notebooks and pencils and are to be seen taking the names of their favorite varieties.

The Park and Recreation Board felt that they preferred to initiate this movement and give the garden a thorough try-out before offering to cooperate with the Society in the usual display garden. The trial having proven a success, doubtless, an affiliation

will be effected in the near future. Generous support was given by Mr. S. L. Earle, Fraser Nurseries, and Mr. Lee R. Bonnewitz.

The garden has received much local publicity. It has proven very popular and its future is promising. Iris shows have been held for the past two years, sponsored by the Garden Clubs. The quality of the shows is steadily improving and the number of exhibitors increasing.



THE IRIS BORDER IN KANSAS CITY

MRS. MASSEY HOLMES

A quarter of a mile of iris, three rows deep and on both sides of the street making a half mile of actual planting, is the way the Kansas City Amateur Flower Gardeners Association is showing Missourians what can be done by way of beauty with an iris border. This is its third spring and it was so full of bloom that thousands of visitors drove out to enjoy it, some of them returning again and again, they were so enchanted with it.

The Flower Gardeners Association have been working for several years with the teachers of Kansas City to make the city an iris city, and for some time there has been discussion of how beautiful and instructive a big planting of iris might be if a place for it could be found. It was Mrs. A. J. Arn who saw this border as a possibility when 77th Street was paved from Holmes to Troost Avenue, the street coming to a dead stop at either end. Mrs. Arn at once began to consider the possibilities and the difficulties. She wrote to Mrs. Holmes who was away and talked it over with those who were in town, and the idea met with great approval. Mr. Browning Fellers, the Vice-President, appointed as Iris Border Committee Mrs. Arn, Mrs. Percy Smith, Mrs. James G. Rowell, Mrs. Mark Morrin, Dr. Tom Sawyer, and they immediately went to work with great fervor. The consent of the Director of Public Works and of the property owners was first obtained. The ground was plowed and worked and a careful plan for color arrangements was studied out. Iris began to flow in at every mention of the idea,—gifts of iris, money to buy certain varieties which were sold to them by the growers here at astonishingly low rates. Letters were written to Mr. O. M. Pudor, Puyallup, Washington; Mr. Lee R. Bonnewitz, Van Wert, Ohio, and the Bertrand Farr Co., Wyomissing, Pa., telling what was being done and asking if they would be interested in sending a few specimens. In answer to these letters not only choice specimens were sent but dozens of named varieties.

Getting the roots seemed to be no trouble and they were carefully planted a foot and a half apart each way, the tall ones in the middle

so that if the border was studied from the sidewalk or the road there would be a contrast in height. Labels and signs were donated and installed. At least 5,000 rhizomes were put in place and, while some replacements have been necessary, on the whole they have progressed well. The following plan is not quite as it was originally laid out, and some changes have been made, for all locations have not been equally good but it is fairly accurate. It is the hope of the Association that as the border grows and multiplies it will not only be an inspiration and delight to all who visit it during the blooming time, but that when it needs thinning in a few years it may be the parent of other plantings in other parts of the city. And for this inspiration of Mrs. Arn, so well carried out by her and her indefatigable committee, Kansas Citians are all truly grateful.



PLAN OF IRIS BORDER ON 77TH STREET FROM HOLMES
BOULEVARD TO TROOST AVENUE

Curb

Middle

Sidewalk

Edge of Blue Self in Early and Late Varieties.

I. Display of Pink Varieties with Isoline in Center.

II. Mrs. H. Darwin.....Koya[Her Majesty.
III. Monsignor Rhein Nixe Princess Victoria Louise.

- | | | | |
|--------|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
| IV. | Nibelungen | Pallida Dalmatica..... | Plumeri. |
| V. | Lorelei | Lent A. Williamson and | |
| | | Alcazar | Prosper Laugier. |
| VI. | Lohengrin | Madame Chereau..... | Quaker Lady. |
| VII. | Tineae | Gertrude | King. |
| VIII. | Queen of May..... | Albert Victor..... | Cypriana superba. |
| IX. | Shades of White including Bi-color and Specimens. | | |
| X. | Shades of Red and Bronze including Bi-color and Specimens. | | |
| XI. | Shades of White including Bi-color and Specimens. | | |
| XII. | White Knight and | | |
| | Kharput alter- | | |
| | nating | Amas | Archeveque. |
| XIII. | Caprice | Dr. Bernice..... | Mithras. |
| XIV. | Sherwin Wright..... | Perfection | Afterglow. |
| XV. | Miranda | Fairy | Naushon. |
| XVI. | Flavescens | Juniata | Quaker Lady. |
| XVII. | Rose Unique..... | Celeste | Kochi. |
| XVIII. | Blue Bird..... | Nine Wells..... | Neptune. |
| XIX. | Dorothea | Violacea Grandiflora | Pare de Neuilly. |
| XX. | Display of Yellow Varieties including Bi-color. | | |
| | Edge of Blue Self in Early and Late Varieties. | | |

TO-READ OR NOT-TO-READ

LILY, IRIS, AND ORCHID FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, by Francis Marion Fultz. Spanish American Press, Gardena, California, 1928. 135 pages, illustrated.*

In the preface the author plainly states that his book "is not a technical treatise, but the botanical statements which it contains are intended to be accurate and true to fact. The field is as completely covered as seems wise and expedient. Space is not given to some minor species and varieties, in order that the reader may not be wearied with unnecessary detail."

The book is written for a local public in a vivid and interesting style, reflecting a fine fund of both botanical and horticultural knowledge, and limits itself not to the three plants noted in the title, but gives passing attention to various other monocots of the region, particularly brodiaea, fritillaria, zygadenus, allium, and yucca. The illustrations are clear and intriguing.

IRIS FOR THE GARDEN PAGEANT. Delightful notes on irises by Mrs. Hires presented as a leading article in the October issue of the National Horticultural Magazine which in itself is very comparable to the New Flora and Silva in quality.

* Reprinted from the National Horticultural Magazine. Vol. 8, No. 4.

TID-BITS 20TH

ERRATA.

In the July BULLETIN the photographs attributed to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden are, respectively, from Kioto, Japan, and from Dr. Harris Kennedy's garden at Readville, Mass.

* * * * *

In the January BULLETIN the Display Garden and its initiation should have been accredited to Miss Mary C. Bissell, Mrs. J. J. Montague, and Mrs. Lucius W. Hitchcock. At present it is sponsored by the Garden Club and has proved so successful that we have often suggested that others might follow so brilliant an example. New Rochelle, N. Y.

* * * * *

EDEN HILLS,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
1ST MAY, 1929.

Dear Sir,

Re my article "An Australian Note" published in BULLETIN number 30.

I note that in the editing of this article a meaning was expressed substantially different from that of the text.

My copy reads "Yet I have had parcels of irises from England without a single loss."

The published text reads "Though I have never completely lost an English shipment."

The inference conveyed does not agree with my experience of English grown rhizomes.

I would feel grateful if an effective correction were made.

Truly yours,

C. W. WHEELER.

* * * * *

1929 JOURNEY

Mrs. Peckham this last spring journeyed far in quest of irises and shared her pleasure with many others. First came New Haven with its show, with a side trip to Mrs. Kellogg's at Hartford and to the Display Garden at Springfield. Then came the Providence and Boston Shows with visits to Mrs. Nesmith and the Wellesley Gardens, while Mrs. Nesmith and Prof. Hill joined her in the longer

trip to Ithaca and Baldwinsville. The photographs of Over-the-Garden-Wall, of the meeting, and of a collecting expedition suggest the variety of pleasures to be derived from an iris visit.

* * * * *

EXHIBITING IRIS—An Experiment. C. P. Connell, Tenn.

I made an interesting experiment in taking iris into the Chattanooga show. Two days before the show I cut several hundred stalks with near-open buds. They were packed in layers in florists' standard paper boxes, with dry tissue paper covering all buds and wetted cotton laid both over and under stalks. In all, there were eight large long boxes so packed. The packed boxes were placed in a refrigerator at a temperature of about 40° F. until the day of the show. On the morning of the show they were removed from the ice box at 5 A. M., transported 150 miles by auto and placed on exhibition table at twelve o'clock. Many flowers opened within two hours. On the next day, practically all stalks were in full flower and when the faded blossoms were cut away, presented a remarkably fine fresh display which could have successfully gone into competition on any show bench. No flowers were broken and, aside from a slight tendency of the stalks to bend or twist, there were no difficulties.

The experiment was repeated for the Birmingham show with fewer flowers and greater success.

At the time of cutting stalks for the Chattanooga show, an extra hundred were cut and placed in the icebox in open buckets. Daily thereafter, and for two weeks, fine blossoms were taken out. After two weeks, the flowers were smaller and faded quickly. After three weeks the flowers were still coming open, but developed only half-size. After four weeks, they did not open, but wilted in bud.

In view of the facts developed in this experiment, it seems that flowers might be held for a time, or sent to shows at considerable distance.

* * * * *

SCORE-CARD REVISION. Comments on Notes by Mr. Sturtevant.

Before going into these comments, I still maintain that the present Score-card leaves much to be desired, particularly in its references to value for exhibition and cutting purposes, which have no place in a Score card for Garden Irises.

Mr. Sturtevant states that I advocate the complete omission of height and size as qualities to be considered, but fails to state that these are included and considered all they need be in rating the

quality of poise of stalk. I can see no reason for considering these two points twice. And as for misreading the stated requirements, or the word "preferably," it is evident from the ratings obtained that this has been quite general, in so far as garden values are concerned.

Nor do I believe that the omission of consideration of qualities not specifically mentioned unfits one for the work of rating or use of a score, for such an omission is relatively less serious than the consideration of qualities which have no place in the evaluation of Garden Irises, namely, suitability for exhibition or cut-flower purposes.

In omitting the latter two qualities from consideration under "Outstanding Quality," I do not believe I have made it impossible for anyone to give credit to Allies or Autumn King for the quality of fall blooming—this might well be considered under distinctiveness, under which term any number of not mentioned qualities may readily be considered.

I do not believe I have over-emphasized substance. If such a fine thing as Ambassadeur should lose in its rating for a lack of this quality, that will be as it should be, in so far as garden value may be concerned. I have my doubts, however, if this would receive much of a cut in that quality.

I am agreed with Mr. Sturtevant that one of the chief mistakes in using the Score card is in limiting oneself to the use of examples as strict requirements; and the tendency also lies in that direction when examples of height and size are given, and consideration is given under Outstanding Quality in the matter of suitability for exhibition purposes and cut-flower purposes. It is entirely probable that a more equitable Score card for Garden Irises may be worked out if we can clarify, or better, eliminate the objectionable points mentioned in this paragraph.

I realize after reading Mr. Sturtevant's comments on my method for scoring color, that mine leaves much to be desired, that mine might be well enough for landscape purposes, but would result in neglect of those that I really had in mind for better ratings; the Card might well consider color on the same basis as the present one.

Will not more of our members give their views on this subject?

CHAS. E. F. GERSDORFF

* * * * *

KING ALFRED'S JEWEL.

In the issue of Nov. 24, 1928, *The Christian Science Monitor* gives the following account of King Alfred's Jewel, one of the price-

less antiquities in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford. In sending this to me, Mrs. S. O. Scudder, of Novato, California, expresses my own appreciation of associations and suggests the depth of interest residing in the names alone of some of our irises. "I feel strongly that whatever adds to our mental associations with any subject enhances the subject itself and 'by the same token' an iris rising from a coat of mail, the whole composition sanctioned, if not designed by the warrior, King Alfred, is worth a pause, a reflection."

"King Alfred's Jewel is of especial interest to all iris lovers as it is a beautiful example of iris in heraldic design of the date of about A. D. 897.

"Some history first, to clear the atmosphere. King Alfred's services to England in peace times are so embellished by word of mouth history we may never know certainly how many of the important legislations credited to him are authentically his. Enough to say he repulsed the Danes in 897.

"It was at one of King Alfred's desperate stands in Somersetshire that his locket or Jewel was apparently lost, for there it was found many years after during the reign of William and Mary by a plowman.

"The doughty warrior was a patron of arts, likewise he was his own best publicity agent. He commissioned a goldsmith to make a locket or memorial piece of jewelry, one side bearing the portrait of King Alfred with this inscription round about in Chaucerian English:

" 'Aelfred Mee Heht Gewercan.' (Alfred had me made.)

"The obverse facet of the jewel displays a foundation or neck of plates of overlapping mail, a conventionalized heart in a scroll and rising from this heart-base three irises, with swordlike leaves."

* * * * *

NOTES.

We find Mr. Mead still and rightly enthusiastic on the garden, (the color), value of irises and also a bit stirred up by the remark, "One must consider an iris from every point of view in judging, both from the garden standpoint and from the exhibition standpoint."

He writes, "You, too, will at once recognize the fallacy in this statement because of course when you are going to judge an iris from a garden standpoint you must forget entirely about exhibition. Otherwise wrong judgments will be made, naturally. On the other

hand the value of an iris for exhibition might be affected from the beholder's considering what might be its effect in the garden."

Now as it happens I do not agree with Mr. Mead as to the fallacy of considering both at once. A variety may have good garden value as a distant mass and possess little but color value. One may wish also however to use it near at hand, in a clump or even as a single stalk (but still in the garden) and then it must possess all the qualities which make for "exhibition" value. A variety may possess only exhibition value *or* only garden value, but one might well imagine that it could possess both to the highest degree.

When judging a single stalk in a class calling for single stalks, the most perfect stalk in prime condition wins, regardless of the intrinsic quality of the variety as compared to others not on exhibit or shown in poor condition, BUT when judging a new seedling at a show the judges compare it with all the irises of which they have knowledge and to the best of their ability visualize it as it might develop in the garden, and even then the rules of the Society permit only an award of Honorable Mention to the cut-flower.

I wonder if in discussing the relative values of varieties for exhibition or the garden we do not forget that our interest is really concentrated on the new things which are first mentioned as exhibition blooms and do not become known to many in the garden for many a year.

Mr. Mead continues, "I happened to look over again Miss Sturtevant's catalog for 1928 and I find that she had previously expressed the same estimate of the relative value of color in the iris that I did in the BULLETIN (No. 29). I am firmly convinced that the main criterion in the judging of a garden iris is color and the other aspects are supporting qualities.

"I believe that one argument arose over the merits of Mrs. Arbuckle's Col. Lindbergh, a beautiful harmony in Bradley's violet and deep pansy violet. I am sure that most iris lovers will agree that this is an important color combination. Consequently I have very carefully compared it with existing varieties such as B. Y. Morrison, an improvement of which Mrs. Arbuckle considered Col. Lindbergh, but I do not think that they are especially comparable as to color type, and I brought around Azure, Swazi (which I found must be a child of Azure), and Rheintrabe. I at once discarded Rheintrabe and Azure as Col. Lindbergh is superior both as a grower and in having a splendid light, thin, graceful stalk. The

form of the flower is lovely, the margins being beautifully curved as a result of which its form and line are most appealing in the mass. Since it is the best of its color and has such other good characteristics it must be a good iris.''

* * * * *

FROM FRANK B. MEYER, PA.

"But now the garden, the garden of my dreams, has been built and planted. Right in the heart of Elkins Park, in a charming valley, where there is a brook of crystal-clear water and cold-flowing springs that feed the little lake with its island bright with flowering cherry trees and azaleas, there are hillsides covered with irises that in May and June look like the gayest of Oriental rugs, long rows of the most gorgeous Oriental poppies that the world knows, and long rows of the finest peonies which are soon followed by the splendid Japanese irises, to my mind the loveliest of the genus. All this color will be ushered in by the subdued tones of countless daffodils upon the sloping hillsides all around, with an interlude made by the choicest of tulips on either side of the long path that is bordered by the exhibition peonies.

Of the exhibition peonies about two hundred and fifty are already in place, no two alike and all fully approved. A hundred more varieties will be added this year. And yet there is room for the hybrid lilaes and the tree peonies that came from France, for this garden consists of two acres. (Nearly fifteen hundred peony plants will flower in it next June.) And there are two acres of irises and peonies and poppies in Ashbourne and just as many at Wallingford.

There has been good success in the growing of the floral treasures. Last June my gardens received four of the eight first prizes awarded by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for peonies, and one of the judges told me later that if the friends who staged for me had not made mistakes there would have been seven of the eight first prizes for my gardens. In irises also there was handicap, for mine all had to be cut by lantern light after nine o'clock in the evening. As it was they were defeated only by those that came from the almost unlimited facilities that Mrs. Horatio Gates Loyd has at her disposal.

There is advantage in my being a not distant neighbor to Mrs. Loyd and to Mr. Wister, with whom plants often are exchanged. In order to become acquainted with Philadelphia and its vicinity, before my home was established here seven years ago, I served as

manager for Messrs. Boyd and Wister at Movilla Gardens in Haverford. Before that it was my privilege to pass with Mr. Bonnewitz the first summer of his engaging in the business and for him I wrote his first iris catalog. There had been previously a year with Albert D. Taylor in Cleveland, for whom I helped to write his book *The Complete Garden*. Now what time can be spared for writing is given to making book reviews for Richardson Wright, of *House and Garden*. In his *Practical Book of Outdoor Flowers* also you will find my name.

But most interesting of all you would find our own seedlings, which have not yet been put upon the market, offsprings for the most part of Titan, Crusader and others of that general type. Mr. Boyd came last June when some were still in flower and became so excited that he at once telephoned to Mr. Wister and Mrs. Hires to come and see them. Unluckily both these experts were out of town."

* * * * *

FROM W. T. COX, CONN.

"I suppose it is rank heresy (not at all.—Ed.) to say so but I cannot care for great masses of irises even if they rate ever so high and make exquisite Jekyll-King color schemes. Planted in masses the verticals grate on me. I suppose they have their place, but a great many bearded irises, in one group, look to me very stiff indeed unless there is some overpowering counter interest. And I do not care for their foliage these October days. For accent, sparingly used—yes; but in masses—I cannot get to like them—I cannot arrange them in any satisfactory way."

* * * * *

FROM MR. SCHREINER, MINN.

In a letter discussing his "Iris Map," which made his catalog of 1928 one of the finest and most studied that I had seen for many years, Mr. Schreiner says, "I have successfully sold my son, a senior in high school, the "Iris Idea." He is as enthusiastic as I and has completed the wearing into tatters of the old bulletins. Now he is completing a sample collection of species, bearded, beardless, oncos, etc., and studying up on scientific breeding. He has crossed for two years but not with as definite a plan as now."

Such a comment makes me wonder how many others of our members share their iris joys with the younger generation. Where the fever catches they seem to take it even more seriously than their

elders, but I wonder how many children of under eleven could write better than has Jack Williams in the 1928 report of Hillcrest Gardens.

This, by the way, is the hobby of Miss Marian Roby Case, an old friend of this Society and Hillcrest in Weston, Massachusetts, is becoming a well-known place to be seen with its farms and gardens. Incidentally it offers many local boys work and training during their summer vacations. That the training is not purely manual, I think the following paper will attest.

IRIS, by Jack Williams (age 11).

My work this year has been taking care of the new iris garden, which I have found much pleasure in doing. Miss Case thought iris would be a good subject for my paper this year. The new iris garden is situated in front of her cottage.

It was ploughed up a year ago last fall, in the spring it was manured, and cropped with corn to fertilize and clean the ground, after which it was dressed with bone meal and levelled ready for planting. The beds were designed by Mr. J. C. Wister, with the view in mind of a color scheme. September seventeenth we started planting the iris in the beds.

This spring, quite a lot of the iris flowered, showing us a little of what the garden is going to be in years to come. April twenty-sixth grass seed was sown in the paths between the beds and borders. It has been very interesting to me to watch the different iris open.

I will now mention just a few of the names and colors which I like the best. They are: Fairy, which is white slightly shaded with blue; Anna Farr, a lovely white with pale blue borders! Western Dream, blue; Aurea, a deep golden yellow; Afterglow; Athene, white; Susan Bliss, pink; Ballerine, blue; Crusader, with dark blue falls and light blue standards; Roseway, purplish pink. There are many more lovely and interesting iris in this new garden. Miss Case has also planted tulips and hyacinths in this wonderful garden to bloom before the iris do.

In the borders around the garden are planted some annuals, namely, Shirley poppies, candytuft, lobelia, and some very interesting Japanese seedlings.

In the background are flowering crabs, flowering shrubs, and evergreen trees, and there are two lovely marble seats for visitors to sit on and admire the garden. We have a great many more iris at

Hillcrest, besides these in the new garden. There is the large iris test garden on the hill with its five or six hundred varieties. This includes a collection of dwarf or pumila iris which open their exquisite little blooms the first of all, and I can tell you these little iris are welcomed joyfully after the long winter. These are closely followed by the intermediate varieties which are most stately and closely resemble the late flowering ones, but are not so tall. These two lead us up to the late iris, which burst forth into bloom and are a glorious sight, and include every color one can imagine and are very much admired by the many visitors to Hillcrest Gardens.

Then on the wood road we have the pumila, verna, the dainty little cristata, and the stately Japanese iris.

In the flower garden there are some uncommon iris, some of these Miss Case brought from Sicily, they are fine delicate blue ones, and one variety is sweet-smelling. In the same bed with these are the free flowering little iris setosa, whose seed came from California. Then in the bed by the concrete bench there is iris fulva, with its rich coppery colored flowers which bloom the end of June.

In the bog in the peony garden there is a large planting of Siberian iris which make a wonderful display with their blue, white, and pink colors. And there the yellow flag is at home and flowers profusely. Iris versicolor, with their showy blue flowers, and the spuria iris, with their golden flowers, find a home which they love.

And now with a great burst of splendor come the stately Japanese iris. Of these lovely flowers there is a great collection of named varieties. Most of these are named in the Japanese language, and sound very quaint to us.

Besides these there are lots of seedlings raised at Hillcrest. These lovely flowers include the most delicate shades of color, and one may call them the crowning glory of all iris.

I must now mention that we planted a very pretty iris garden at the Boston Iris Show, June fifteenth, with a miniature pool, dainty little ferns, and water-loving iris round it. Banked up behind were the German iris. Owing to the judges thinking that the iris garden was not for competition, we were not awarded a prize, but were highly commended for it.

* * * * *

A notice from the Canadian Horticultural Council (L. F. Burrows, Ottawa), outlines a tour leaving Montreal, July 12, 1930, for the time of the International Horticultural Congress which meets in London.



Irises (probably *chamaeiris*) growing on peak of thatch near Deauville, Normandy, France.

Photo by Elizabeth Milar



Mr. Robert Wayman's frames for *Oncocyclus* Irises.

—Photo by E. A. S. Peckham

ALPHABETICAL IRIS CHECK LIST, 1929

This important book will be published by the American Iris Society as of date June 1st, 1929.

While a sum has been set aside from the funds of the Society towards the publication of the Check List, it is not sufficient and we hope that the sale of the book to reference libraries, nurseries, seedsmen, students, teachers, amateur and professional gardeners and Iris enthusiasts in general will cover the remainder.

Cheques and money orders should be made out to The American Iris Society and mailed to John B. Wallace, Jr., Secy., 129 Church Street, New Haven, Conn. To Members, \$2.00; Non-members, \$3.00.

American Iris Society Test Gardens

Who and Where They Are—What They Need

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. Dr. Geo. M. Reed in charge. Test Garden for Beardless Irises making a special study of Japanese varieties. Pests and diseases, Beardless Irises studied here. New Japanese, New Siberian, Beardless species, *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* varieties required. Communication in regard to Beardless varieties invited.

California Botanic Garden, Sawtelle, Calif. Prof. Frederic W. Taylor in charge. Dr. S. S. Berry, 1145 W. Highland Ave., Redlands, Calif., supervising Iris collection, will be glad if lists of available varieties are submitted to him, also to reply to questions as to what is needed. Many varieties, covering all sections desired as this is the opportunity to test unusual sorts that cannot be tried in Eastern Test Gardens.

Cornell University, Dept. of Floriculture, Ithaca, N. Y. Mr. Alfred M. S. Pridham in charge. General Test Garden. Large collection standard varieties needing all newer varieties including bulbous. Dwarf Bearded test being made by Dr. Albert H. Wright. Two plants of each of these should be sent to him that they can be studied in the two plots.

Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames, Iowa. Prof. E. C. Volz in charge. General Test Garden having standard varieties. Needs Beardless, Japanese and Dwarf Bearded, also all new varieties.

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo. Mr. P. A. Kron in charge. General Test Garden desiring all new varieties, Bearded or Beardless and species to complete collection and provide material for various tests.

Minnesota, University of. Mr. F. X. Schreiner, Route 1, Riverview Sta., St. Paul, Minn., in charge. Varieties of Bearded, Beardless, species and bulbous. All needed for study.

Morton Arboretum, Lisle, DuPage Co., Ill. Mr. Godshalk in charge. General Test Garden for all kinds of Bearded, Beardless, species. Many duplicates needed as several gardens are being laid out for display and study. All standard and new sorts welcome.

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York, N. Y. Mr. Kenneth M. Boynton in charge. Test Garden for Bearded varieties. Trial Garden for seedlings. Breeding Garden for species under direction of Dr. A. B. Stout. Dr. J. K. Small is testing and describing new species collected by him. New varieties of Bearded needed. Seedlings sent in should be marked "Seedlings for Trial."

Saskatchewan, University of, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Prof. C. F. Patterson in charge. Glad to receive any newer varieties to test hardiness in that climate. Particularly desirous of American seedlings to test value in Canada. Senders should write first to Prof. Patterson who will get permit for specified number of plants.

NOTICE

Details of the \$100.00 Prize offered by Robert Wayman will be found on page 40 of BULLETIN No. 15.

Publications available from Science Press Printing Co., Lancaster, Pa.
Checks payable to American Iris Society.

Bulletins

No. 1. June, 1920. The Culture of Irises in the United States. 32 pp. Out of print.

No. 2. January, 1921. Garden Irises, Past and Present. 44 pp. The Development of Tall Bearded Irises in the 19th Century. Sir Michael Foster and his Irises. Registration and notes on hybridization and garden effects. \$1.00.

No. 3. June, 1921. Sir Michael Foster and his Work. 32 pp. Illustrated. Out of print.

No. 4. January, 1922. 34 pp. Check List (superseded by No. 8). Free on application.

No. 5. May, 1922. Symposium. 32 pp. Numerical ratings of some 700 varieties which are a most valuable guide to the relative value of standard varieties. 50 cents.

No. 6. October, 1922. Description of Varieties, Part I. 40 pp. Notes on European Irises (see also Nos. 7, 9 and 12). \$1.00.

No. 7. January, 1923. Descriptions of Varieties, Part II. 40 pp. Articles by A. J. Bliss, W. J. Caparne, and J. M. Shull. \$1.00.

No. 8. October, 1923. Check List, October, 1923. 40 pp. This, together with a supplement and lists of registrations in Nos. 14, 18, and 22, gives the authoritative list of all Iris names. Supply nearly exhausted. 50 cents.

No. 9. December, 1923. A review of the Irises raised by William Mohr. 46 pp. Ill. A detailed review of bulbous Irises and their culture. Descriptions, Part III. \$1.00.

No. 10. January, 1924. Irises for the Beginner. 60 pp. Ill. A comprehensive treatment of all Irises adapted to the small garden, with recommended lists of varieties, garden and cultural notes. The Directors consider this BULLETIN worthy of a special edition and a copy is given *free to all new members*. You may well advise your gardening friends to purchase it. On sale to non members at 50 cents.

No. 11. May, 1924. Beardless Irises. 40 pp. Ill. A complete and compact review of the species and varieties of this group of the Iris family. The articles by W. R. Dykes are of especial interest. \$1.00.

No. 12. October, 1924. Notes and Descriptions, Part IV. 40 pp. Ill. This brings the list of descriptions up to about five hundred of the finest varieties. \$1.00.

No. 13. December, 1924. A Classification of Bearded Irises. 36 pp. The first published color classification of the group and a valuable reference. 50 cents.

No. 14. January, 1925. Bertrand H. Farr. 68 pp. Ill. The man and his work with Irises. Official records of the Society, 1920-1925, including the Code of Nomenclature, a 1924 Bibliography of Iris Literature, the White and Black lists of varieties. \$1.00.

No. 15. April, 1925. Irises of the Future. 40 pp. Ill. Articles by Sydney B. Mitchell, B. Y. Morrison, Sherman Duffy, and others. Trial garden reports and records. 50 cents.

No. 16. July, 1925. A Report on Sterility in Irises. 44 pp. Ill. The first scientific study of the subject and the result of research at the New York Botanical Garden. The American Iris Society has been the first popular flower society to initiate and support scientific research. This BULLETIN is not recommended to the casual reader. Supply limited. 50 cents.

No. 17. October, 1925. Japanese Irises and Others. 44 pp. Ill. Prof. Miyazawa speaks of his iris work, M. Denis writes of White Irises, and others tell of their successes. It is an unusually chatty issue. 50 cents.

No. 18. January, 1926. 48 pp. Reports of Officers and of Trial Gardens, Text of Display Garden Agreement. 1925 Bibliography. 1925 Introductions and Registrations. Extracts from *Les Iris dans les Jardins*, by M. Correvo. \$1.00.

No. 19. April, 1926. W. R. Dykes. 40 pp. Ill. Dedicated to the memory of W. R. Dykes, a most interesting and permanent record of a life's work with irises. It includes the most valuable of his occasional writings. Further technical notes on sterility. 50 cents.

No. 20. July, 1926. The Iris of Gerard's Herbal. 32 pp. Illustrated from the original. Iris combinations for the garden. Reports of 1926 exhibitions. 50 cents.

No. 21. October, 1926. Planting an Iris Garden. 44 pp. Ill. Further Studies in Sterility. Iris flavissima and many odd notes from England and America. Supply limited. 50 cents.

No. 22. January, 1927. Exhibition Policy. 60 pp. Ill. 1926 Society Records. 1926 Bibliography. 1926 Introductions and Registrations. Further Sterility Studies. \$1.00.

No. 23. April, 1927. Memoriam, Arthur H. Scott. 48 pp. Ill. The value of Iris breeding by S. B. Mitchell. Is scientific research necessary? 1926 Test Garden reports, from the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Cornell University, Missouri Botanic Garden. Regelia and Onocylus Iris. Book reviews. 50 cents.

No. 24. July, 1927. 40 pp. European Iris notes. Reports of 1927 exhibitions. Regelia-Cyclus Irises in Canada. Book reviews. 50 cents.

No. 25. October, 1927. Early Dwarf Bearded Iris. 40 pp. Early flowering species and varieties and their use in the garden. List of Hybrid Iris of W. J. Caparne. Old Iris names. Discussion of the problems of the Iris breeder. 50 cents.

No. 26. January, 1928. 1927 Reports. 68 pp. Charter and By-laws. Science Series No. 1, The Iris Borer. Irises in California, England, and Italy. The Questionnaire—facts of Interest. 50 cents.

No. 27. April, 1928. 64 pp. Garden Reports. The Test Gardens and their Work. Science Series 2, Breeding. Flowering Periods, Prices, and Gardens. Writings of Sir Michael Foster. Book Reviews. 50 cents.

No. 28. July, 1928. 64 pp. An Up-to-the-minute rating of hundreds of varieties, thus supplanting No. 5. The Japanese Iris (illustrated). Plans. \$1.00.

No. 29. October, 1928. 68 pp. Garden Irises and Garden Plans. Science Series 3, Chromosomes—Root Growth. 1928 Exhibitions. Notes From Afar. Descriptions, Part V, and Index to all varieties described. \$1.00.

Please note the BULLETINS No. 1 and No. 3 are out of print.

For the convenience of members who have joined during the past five years and who wish to complete their sets, the following BULLETINS are offered in sets at reduced prices.

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| Set A. | All bulletins, 1921-1923, inclusive, Nos. 2, 4-9, inclusive. | \$ 5.00. |
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| Set E. | All bulletins, 1921-1927, inclusive, Nos. 2, 4-25, inclusive. | \$11.00. |
| Set F. | All bulletins, 1921-1928, inclusive, Nos. 2, 4-29, | \$13.50. |

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

Addisonia, No. 1, \$2.00, December, 1924.

Addisonia, No. 2, \$2.00, March, 1927.

The Iris Society (England)

Bulletin, No. 1, \$.50 each. Bulletin, No. 5, \$1.50 each.
Bulletin, No. 4, \$1.00 each. Bulletin, No. 6, \$2.00 each.

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All remittances should be drawn in favor of the American Peony Society and mailed to

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secretary, Northbrook, Ill.

From The Gardener's Bed-book, by our good friend Richardson Wright, I cull these notes as fillers for a page left blank by the printers procedure. May they lead many members to buy the book itself.

April 25, HOCH DER DWARFS! There's a pleasing gnomelike, squat, well-fed quality about the dwarf Iris that is flowering now. Crouching down to inspect their chubby heads as they bloom in my rock path and in the diminutive Alpine garden, I can think of nothing else save those German families that cluster around the tables in the Hofbrau Haus in Munich, those shining-faced, robust and ruddy pepole contentedly eating their Radishes and drinking their beer. And my enjoyment of this Pumila beauty is tinctured with solemn curses on the head of Mr. Volstead and his arid kind who have left us only the Radish. The words of my mouth may be smoother than butter, but there is war in my heart. Had I good Munich beer at hand, I would saunter up and down this rock path shouting, "Canary bird, Prosit!" . . . "Your good health, Citres!" . . . "A long life to you, Grand Mogul!" . . . "Petite Anne, salute!" . . . Villereal, bottoms up to you!" . . .

August 6, EUGENICS FOR IRIS. There's got to be a conscience about this thing. I mean disposing of old Iris. When first we came here the place boasted two clumps of mongrel kinds that, not being able to afford others, we religiously divided until paths and beds were literally crowded with it. Then, gradually, my Iris acquaintanceship and purse broadening, I longed for better kinds. For a while the discards went to neighbors, but today when I suggest a little gift of, say, a couple of wheel-barrow loads of Iris, they give me what, in common parlance, is called a dirty look. Consequently the common kinds go on the bonfire. No good is attained in increasing their progeny. The birth control of poor Iris is a worthy crusade for any gardener.

August 19, PROFESSOR OF IRIS. A part-time gardener came to help us out that August, and I initiated him into the simple mysteries of dividing Iris. There was quite a lot to divide and replant—several hundred feet of it that edged the Top Garden paths—and when he had finished he was quite skillful at the job. In his previous conditions of servitude this helper had made shoes, cut grass, done odd jobs of farming and tended the furnaces of the valley homes. This was his first plunge into the shoreless sea of flowers, and he took to it as a whale to water.

The week after he retired from my employ strange rumors came up from the valley. Otherwise sane and contented folks grew hectic and discontented with their gardens. Something must be done about their Iris. This worthy fellow, having graduated from my simple hilltop school, set himself up as Professor of Iris, went about from garden to garden, struck a solemn pose before every Iris clump he found and, with the judicial airs of the learned, handed down his opinion. Up and down the valley he went, lifting Iris, dividing it, replanting clumps and thus making jobs for himself until Winter. The next years these gardens made history for themselves in Iris time, which goes to prove that a little knowledge is not invariably a dangerous thing.

SCORE CARD FOR GARDEN IRISES*

PLANT—20%.

Growth exceedingly strong and vigorous.	10%
Effect in garden: free flowering floriferous.	10%

STALK—20%.

Poise: the flowers pleasingly proportioned in size and form to the height and branching of the stalk.	10%
Height: preferably over 40 in. in the taller groups, over 30 in. in the variegata, or amoena groups, 15 in. for intermediates, etc.	10%

FLOWER—35%

Color: clear; venation or reticulation, if noticeable, clearly defined.	15%
Form: if distinctive and pleasing; e. g., Princess Beatrice, Queen Caterina.	10%
Size: e. g., Juniata, Rhein Nixe, Sindjks of their types.	10%
Substance: firm and resistant to weather conditions.	10%

OUTSTANDING QUALITY—Unless a variety is both clearly distinct and pleasing, it should receive no credit on this point. 15%

Distribution: Fragrance not over 5%; foliage thruout season not over 10%; value for exhibition or as a cut-flower not over 5%; exceptional development of form, color, or substance not over 5% each.

* From Bulletin 15, page 40.